

## Tips on writing an Artist's Statement

Page 22

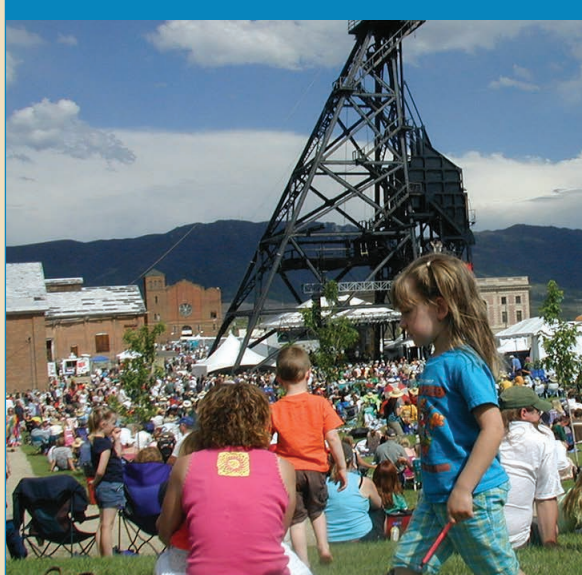
Arts



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Providing information to all Montanans through funding by the National Endowment for the Arts and the State of Montana

### MUSIC FESTIVAL ROUNDUP



Montana Folk Festival and An Ri Ra Irish Festival both hold concerts at the Original Mineyard in Butte. (Photo by Kristi Niemeyer)

Montana is awash music each summer. Here's a guide to Big Sky Country's music festivals, compiled by *Lively Times*:

#### Billings & Eastern Montana

**Magic City Blues Fest:** Aug. 7-10 in downtown Billings. The 13th annual blues extravaganza kicks off with a free all-ages concert by Cornmeal, 7 p.m. Thursday at S. John's Lutheran Home; Jonny Lang headlines Friday's 18-and-older party on Montana Avenue, which also includes The London Souls, Nikki Hill, Matthew Curry, Harper and Midwest Kind and Dirty Power. On Saturday and Sunday, festivities for all ages are on tap at South Park. Ben Harper and Charlie Musselwhite headline Saturday's show, which also features Trombone Shorty and Orleans Avenue, Lukas Nelson and Promise of the Real and Cornmeal. Huey Lewis and The News take the spotlight Sunday, with Cornmeal and Gary Small and the Coyote Brothers also performing. Call 406-534-0400 or visit [www.magiccityblues.com](http://www.magiccityblues.com).

**MontanaFair Concerts:** Aug. 8-10 at MetraPark. The entertainment line-up includes Chris Young with Danielle Bradbery, Aug. 8; Train, Aug. 9; and Pop Evil with Adelitas Way, Aug. 10. Call 800-366-8538 or visit [www.montanafair.com](http://www.montanafair.com).

**Trailhead Brew and Chew Festival:** Aug. 15 at the Billings Depot. The Fox Street Allstars, Ted Ness and the Rusty Nails, and Alder Lights supply tunes, and dozens of brewers and restaurants compete for the "Best Brew" and "Best Chew" awards. Call 406-656-7273 or visit [billingsdepot.org](http://billingsdepot.org).

**Rockin' the Rims:** Aug. 16 at Coulson Park. Festival combines old-school country with the hottest new acts from Austin. The line-up includes John Anderson, Stoney LaRue, JB and the Moonshine Band, Phil Hamilton, the Black Lillies and The Bus Driver Tour. Visit [rockintherims.com](http://rockintherims.com) for details.

#### Bozeman, Livingston & Big Sky

**Montana Chamber Music Society Festival:** July 10 at MSU Reynolds Recital Hall and July 11 at the Rainbow Ranch in Big Sky. Festival artists include Muir violinists Peter Zazofsky and Bayla Keyes, Muir cellist Michael Reynolds, cellist Ilse-Mari Lee, bassist Paul Glenn, flautist Tom Wolf, violist Brant Bayless, pianist Michele Levin, bassoonist Kathleen Reynolds, guest oboist Pablo Izquierdo, and hornist William Scharnberg. Call 406-551-4700 or visit [montanachambermusicsociety.org](http://montanachambermusicsociety.org).

See Festival Roundup on page 12

## Cindy Kittredge announces retirement

Cindy Kittredge, the Montana Arts Council's Folk Arts and Market Development Specialist, has announced that she plans to retire Nov. 1. Kittredge developed the arts council's Montana Artrepreneur Program, which has earned a national reputation as an outstanding training program in marketing and development of business skills for artists.

She also spearheaded the Montana Circle of American Masters (MCAM) program to honor outstanding traditional artists and celebrate Montana's folk arts heritage. Thirty-eight artists have been honored through MCAM, and more than 250 artists have undertaken the training offered through MAP.

"My heartfelt thanks to both the Montana Arts Council and the state's artists for the opportunity to help creative individuals find new paths to sustain themselves," says Kittredge.

She sees retirement as an opportunity to shift her focus. "As a person of the land with numerous and long rows to hoe, I don't see work ending but evolving," she says. "The timing now seems right to step over to the next row with all its possibilities."

"Cindy has set the bar very high for arts agency programs that effectively serve artists," says MAC Executive Director Arlynn Fishbaugh. "She was completely undeterred by challenges that are unique to Montana – like reaching far into the remote and rural regions of our state with her service."



Cindy Kittredge with her handsome Highland bull, Capladh (Scottish for Captain).

"In conversations I've had with artists about the program, the refrain was always the same: 'the MAP program is the most important thing that has happened to me in my life.' They also say, 'this is the most helpful training I have ever received because it is geared specifically to the unique needs of artists.'"

According to Fishbaugh, Kittredge has brought "expertise, support, patience and skill with both the artists and coaches" to the table as she built the program. "The process she developed is centered on important concepts behind adult learning, where she has a special expertise."

Her legacy at the arts council will be carried on by Sheri Jarvis, a ceramic artist from Butte. The MAP graduate and coach will fill a temporary one-year assignment following Kittredge's retirement.

"Because Sheri has first-hand experience with the ins and outs of the MAP program and expertise in working for varied organizations, she can hit the ground running," says Fishbaugh.

Jarvis holds a bachelor's degree in organizational communication with a minor in fine art from Montana State University Billings.

"Sheri's involvement will allow the arts council the opportunity to have a seamless transition until we publicly advertise the position on a permanent basis next summer," says Fishbaugh.

She also appreciates Kittredge's continued involvement until November. "Between now and then, Cindy will guide us in our efforts to ensure that the programs she created have a lasting legacy."

## Lame Deer musicians perform at White House

By Susan Olp

Reprinted with permission from the *Billings Gazette*, May 19

A dozen Lame Deer seventh- and eighth-graders took part in a very exclusive talent show on May 20.

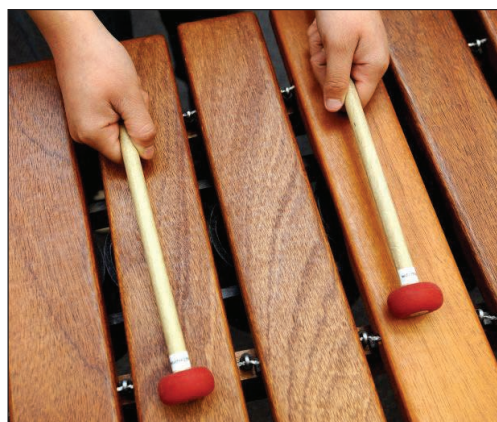
The members of the Morning Star Marimba Band, under the direction of music teacher Natalie Parker, played a marimba and drum piece at the White House. The students and their chaperones left for Washington, D.C., May 17 and returned May 21.

They joined seven other school groups performing in the show. In the audience was first lady Michelle Obama and celebrities Sarah Jessica Parker, Jesse Tyler Ferguson and Kal Penn.

The event marked the end of the two-year pilot project for Turnaround Arts. The national program, conceived by the President's Committee on the Arts and Humanities, was designed to use the arts to help boost student achievement and participation in the country's lowest-performing schools.

Lame Deer is one of eight schools in the U.S. that was chosen to participate in the initial effort. In late April, the school received an invitation to take part in the talent show.

On May 15, 10 of the junior high students stood in rows in the music room, each holding a pair of rubber-tipped mallets. At a signal from Parker, who stood in front directing them, the musicians struck the bars of the wood marimbas in front of them.



A member of the Morning Star Marimba Band practices for the group's White House performance. (Photo by Larry Mayer/Billings Gazette)

Tropical harmonies vibrated in the air as the students, their faces studies in concentration, strove to hit every right note. A trio of students matched them beat for beat on their African drums.

Occasionally the musicians glanced at Parker for a cue. At a couple of points in the 4-minute -30-second piece, the students who weren't playing turned around in place and clicked their mallets.

When the song ended, the performers looked up, smiles on their faces, obviously pleased with the results.

Continued on page 6

## Cultural Trust guidelines available online

Cultural Trust Guidelines are now available at [www.art.mt.gov/orgs/orgs\\_ca.asp](http://www.art.mt.gov/orgs/orgs_ca.asp).

Applications must be for cultural and aesthetic projects including, but not limited to, the visual, performing, literary and media arts, history, archaeology, folklore, archives, collections, research, historic preservation and the construction or renovation of cultural facilities. Applications are encouraged for projects serving rural communities, racial and ethnic groups, people with disabilities, institutionalized populations, youth and the aging.

The application deadline is Aug. 1.